

TOWN OF HENLOPEN ACRES — August 2016 Newsletter

Dear Residents and Property Owners:

We have had a great summer in Henlopen Acres—it is always exciting to see the Town come to life with the activity of returning families, new neighbors and visitors. The Commissioners and I want to thank the many volunteers, participants, sponsors and town employees that made the second Henlopen Acres Independence Day Parade a success. There were patriotic decorations all over Town and even with a weather delay, over two hundred people turned out.

As the season draws to an end, the Town is focused on several initiatives. Numerous dredging processes have been engaged over the years to maintain viability of the marina. Because the basin continues to fill with silt, a consulting firm has been retained to explore options that would provide a long-term solution and deal with the spoils of dredging.

Many of you have expressed concern over the increased deer population in Henlopen Acres, associated exposure to Lyme Disease and damage to landscaping. We are actively engaged with Delaware's chief wildlife biologist to develop a program to address this issue.

Finally, the Tree Committee continues its work to catalog the Town's trees in order to maintain and expand the magnificent canopy unique to Henlopen Acres.

Enjoy these last several weeks of summer and we hope to see you here this Autumn.

Mayor David Lyons

TREES

As you walk, ride or drive through Town, it is hard to not appreciate our beautiful tree canopy. In fact many of our guests come just to ride or walk down the shady roadways and our town is included in the Sussex Outdoors Guide for Fitness and Good Health as part of a 3 mile loop around Rehoboth. Statistically, Henlopen Acres had a tree canopy of approximately 43.2% according to the Delaware Forest Service survey of 2008, which is one of the highest in the State. By contrast, Rehoboth Beach had 32.75% and Lewes had 29.61%. Unfortunately, many of our trees are mature and we have lost some from storms and other causes since 2008.

As part of our Comprehensive Plan process, it was recommended that we study our tree canopy and Mayor Lyons appointed a tree committee. The committee has met with an Arborist and has been surveying all of the Town trees (those in the approximate 20' easement on either side of the roads). The committee has counted and measured nearly 1,000 trees to date and hopes to have all Town trees accounted for by the end of the month. Additionally, they have compiled a list of lots where they would recommend planting young canopy trees in the town easement. The plan would be that with the right care, these trees would be part of the canopy in 15-20 years and replace ones we lose. Additionally, you may have noticed that in the past year the town has planted 14 new trees as part of a grant from the State of Delaware.

We hope to meet with the Arborist in the next 30 days, review our trees and publish a list of lots with suggested trees. (Any tree planting on any lot would be purely voluntary) We have been offered some young 4-6' loblolly pines, which is our predominant canopy tree along with the oaks, and the town will try to get a grant for trees and has already approved a budget for the initial plantings. We would also love anyone who would be willing to contribute or pay for trees. We will schedule a meeting to discuss our trees and the findings of our Arborist sometime soon, so stay tuned.

John Scheurer-Tree Committee Chairman

Volume 16, Issue 3

MAYOR:

David Lyons

Commissioners:

Andrew Brittingham

Tim Hidell

Frank Jamison

Joni Reich

Paddy Richards

John Staffier

Town Hall

104 Tidewaters

Hours: M-F 9-4:30

• **302-227-6411**

• **302-227-3978 Fax**

• **302-542-3323 Security**

• **townhall@henlopenacres.com**

• **henlopenacres.delaware.gov**

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Board of Commissioners

Organizational Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 6, 2016

Quarterly Meeting

Friday Oct 7, 2016

Planning Commission

Monday Aug 22, 2016

Board of Adjustment

Friday Sept 16, 2016

Tree Committee

To be determined

TOWN HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Monday, September 5

Labor Day

Monday, October 10

Columbus Day

Friday, November 11

Veteran's Day

Thurs and Fri Nov 24 & 25

Thanksgiving Holiday

Recently Adopted Ordinance Amendment:

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 43 relating to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals:

This Ordinance abolishes and disbands the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals and vests the authority to hear appeals pursuant to Chapter 43 in the Board of Adjustment as established and constituted in Chapter 130 of the Code.

In short, nothing is changed other than removing an unneeded Board. If an appeal related to Chapter 43 occurs, it would be handled by the existing Board of Adjustment.

**Lions Club phone books have arrived!
You can pick up your copy at Town Hall**

Our Deepest Sympathies to the family of:

- Eugene Cacciamani-89 Tidewaters-02/24/16**
- Timothy Rodgers-82 Pine Reach-06/08/16**
- Dorothy Weber-1 Tidewaters-06/27/16**

Thanks to ALL who participated in our Town Food Drive for the Food Bank of Delmarva. The Food Bank picked up an overflowing barrel on July 19.

Marina

With a generous state grant through State Senator Ernie Lopez, we will be installing a new storm drain at the marina to alleviate the storm water from ponding around the millstone

There will be NO ELECTION for 2016

With the closing of the declaration period on Friday, July 8, only 2 persons filed their intent to be candidates for the 2 vacant offices on the Board of Commissioners.

- David Lyons, Sr
- Frank Jamison

In accordance with the Town Charter and State Code they are deemed elected to serve an additional 3 year term.

Did You Know???

Rehoboth Beach Police Department is a year-round drop off site for any unused medication.

Hurricane Information:

A *Hurricane Watch* means hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area in the next 36 hours. Residents in the *watch area* are urged to keep abreast of changing conditions, A *Hurricane Warning* means hurricane conditions are expected within the *Warning Area* in the next 24 to 36 hrs. For updated information, visit:

sussexcountyde.gov and click on the Facebook Icon

Budget Highlights

At the June Commissioners meeting, the Board approved the budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal year. Items of note:

- Due to operating costs, the annual water fee was increased from \$350 to \$400.
- Building permit fees were increased from 1.5% to 2%
- A budget of \$20,000 is included for tree maintenance and planting
- Improvements to Town Hall which will include a new entrance ramp

At the Quarterly Board of Commissioners Meeting on July 8th the following re-appointments were made:

Board of Adjustment

- Marshall Jones-31 Rolling Road
- Kathy McGuinness-6 Broad Hollow

Audit Committee

- Barry Hale-37 Pine Reach
- Robert Moltz-62 Pine Reach
- John Talbott-41 Rolling Road

Sussex County Sewer

**The Town sewer system is operated by Sussex County
Engineering Department
Their 24 hr. Emergency Contact # is
302-855-7379**

Ordinance Spotlight- Chapter 124 Water-§ 124-22 Drainage of Swimming pools; permit procedure

- A. Owner shall comply with all applicable federal, state, County and Town regulations
- B. Water pumped from a swimming pool or irrigation system shall be drained onto the owners' property which may include the part of the bridge path located on the owners' property, all in conformance with DNREC regulations governing control of water protection activities.
- C. Prior to draining a swimming pool, the owner shall submit an application to the Town Manager for a permit. Such application shall be on an appropriate form (available at Town Hall) and provide all the information requested on the form.